

speak of some of the details about those free trade agreements that seem not to be discussed. We seem to want to talk about how these free trade agreements will be good without understanding the details of what we'll be voting upon.

My opposition to these trade agreements is not based upon any type of partisanship. That negative force called "partisanship" that is too much part of our lives here in Washington, I don't deal with. This is not partisanship. This is not some type of blinded protectionism, that somehow we need to close our shores. I'm very aware of the global impact of our modern economy. And it's not based upon any type of ignorance of the potential good that these so-called free trade agreements can present to us. Indeed, I have lived in a part of the country that has suffered immensely from free trade agreements. I worked 27 years in textiles and watched the jobs leave. My district, North Carolina's Eighth District, is still suffering, as it has for the last 10 years, because of the results of free trade agreements.

Indeed, if you look at the facts of our Nation and where we are in our economy, it's hard to say that since free trade agreements have become part of our lives that it has been good for the Nation. We look at our working families. It was reported last week that our working families are now at income levels of the mid-1990s. We've lost so much of our industrial base. We've lost hundreds of thousands of jobs. And we continue to see our trade deficits climb and climb and climb.

Mr. Speaker, we have the world's greatest economy. We need trade agreements, but not these trade agreements. We need for people to come to us and say we would like to play in the United States market, and we should say what terms that we should have for that.

So what are the details of the Korean free trade agreement? We hear that it will create 75,000 jobs. The Economic Policy Institute tells us we will lose over 150,000 jobs. And we'll hear a lot about the jobs that were created, but we won't hear too much about those jobs that were lost, of which 40,000 jobs are estimated to be lost in the textile industry.

We won't hear about how 65 percent of something can be made in another country and brought to South Korea and finished there and then brought into the United States, recognizing that China is the next-door neighbor to Korea. So how much transshipment is going to come out of China, the 65 percent to South Korea?

We won't hear that North Korea will be allowed to send goods to the United States as a part of this trade agreement.

We won't talk about the currency manipulation that South Korea engages in, just like China does.

We won't talk about the tariffs that will stay in place, protecting Korean goods, while we drop ours immediately.

We'll talk about that we can sell more cars in Korea, up to 75,000, if they choose to buy them—there's no guarantees—when we know that South Korea now is selling hundreds of thousands of cars in the United States.

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Mr. Speaker, we need trade agreements, but we need trade agreements that work for us. This is not a reflection on the countries. It's a reflection on these old NAFTA/CAFTA-type trade deals that were negotiated years ago in the Bush era that have been dusted off and brought to us and being told to us that this is good for the American worker, this will create jobs. Unfortunately, the history of our trade agreements has been anything but that.

I was with an administration official in North Carolina a year ago, and I was told how good free trade had been for North Carolina. And I said, I can't address that, but I can address that free trade has not been good for my district. I was told that they could show me the numbers, and I told them I could show them the empty buildings, many of which are not even standing now. They've just been torn down, not replaced with jobs. Retrain our people for what, to ship more jobs offshore?

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to look at the details of this, look at our economy, and look at the jobs we have lost and say, is this good for America? No, it's not.

IN SUPPORT OF THE TRADE AGREEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the fair trade agreements that we will vote on later today. I commend the Obama administration for their work in ensuring that our businesses and workers get the best agreement possible to grow the economy and create jobs.

While these agreements have been in the works for years, our country has benefited from the improvements garnered by our U.S. Trade Representative, Ron Kirk, and his team. This is particularly evident in their refining of the South Korean agreement so that our farmers and automobile manufacturers get a fair deal. Of course, each trade agreement is different, and they all have to be evaluated on their merits. Details matter.

Overall, these agreements will help increase U.S. exports by an estimated \$13 billion, adding \$10 billion to our annual gross domestic product and creating nearly a quarter million jobs, including many in my district in upstate New York; and we'll do that without adding a single dollar to the deficit. In fact, these fiscally responsible agreements will help cut the deficit.

Our farmers, in particular, stand to gain significantly from these agreements, opening up nearly \$30 million in

new business a year for our farmers in New York. These agreements are enthusiastically supported by our New York State Farm Bureau and by my Agricultural Advisory Panel, comprised of farmers from across the 10 counties and 137 towns I represent, a congressional district with over 1,000 family farmers.

Mr. Speaker, we have the smartest, hardest-working farmers in the world. Their issue is profitability. We help farmers when we attack the impediments to growth, which include taxes, regulations, health care costs, and energy costs. We help farmers when we have access to quality infrastructure—not only roads and bridges, but also access to high-speed broadband. And we help farmers when we expand markets to help them sell their goods. These agreements enhance our farmers' profitability.

Supporting our farmers is supporting the American way. Our family farmers represent the best of our country. And this is also a national security issue—no farms, no food. We must ensure our family farms can compete, or we risk losing them and relying on imports with the attendant food security risks. That's not what my constituents want; that's not what our country wants, which is why we need to pass these agreements.

Now, in addition to helping our farmers, the independent, nonpartisan U.S. International Trade Commission estimates key U.S. manufacturing sectors are also poised to gain. This includes the increase of U.S. exports of motor vehicles and parts by about 50 percent; metal products by over 50 percent; chemical, rubber, and plastic products by over 40 percent; and machinery and equipment by over 30 percent. This will directly help companies in my district, who are already relying on exports, with expanding markets for selling their products, companies like B&B Forest Products in Greene County, Momenive in Saratoga County, EFCO Products in Dutchess County, and Hudson River Stove Works in my home county, Columbia.

What's often missed in these conversations about trade are some of the key points. Right now, over 90 percent of the products coming from Colombia and Panama are already duty free, when less than 40 percent of our goods currently go duty free to these countries. Our goods to South Korea suffer under tariff rates about four times higher. With passage of these fair trade agreements, we will address these imbalances. These agreements will add to our GDP, strengthen existing jobs, and create new ones.

Let's recognize what's at stake, and let's not fool ourselves. If we fail to pass these fair trade agreements and do nothing, we will fall behind. In South Korea, we have seen our beef industry lose more and more of the share of that country's business year after year since the 1990s. South Korea is poised to increase agricultural trade with

Australia and the European Union. If we don't pass these agreements, we will continue to fall behind while other countries gain. Same with Colombia: in 2007, our farmers accounted for 44 percent of the agricultural business in Colombia. By 2010, that number fell to 21 percent.

These agreements are about the future. As Americans, we've enjoyed an unprecedented quality of life because we make things other people can't and we make common goods better than anyone else. That's still the case. In my district, we make the world's most advanced wafers in the semi-conductor industry and some of the most advanced medical devices.

We are poised to continue our tradition of excellence in this country if we make the right choices. And, today, making the right choices means working in a bipartisan way with the Obama administration and enacting a key provision of the President's jobs plan. It means passing these fair trade agreements before the House this week.

I urge my colleagues to support these bills and help get America back to work.

RECOGNIZING LAS VEGAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce as it celebrates its 100th anniversary on October 21 and marks a century of success in working to help build and sustain southern Nevada's business community.

I'm a proud member of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. And as someone who grew up in southern Nevada and who represents her hometown of Las Vegas here in Congress, it has been remarkable to see firsthand so many of the outstanding achievements of the chamber and its thousands of members and how they—we—have shaped our community throughout the years.

From designing some of the very first tourism campaigns for Las Vegas, to helping pass major small business legislation in recent years, the chamber has always played a key part in facilitating the growth of Las Vegas and in supporting the business community in southern Nevada—today's economic engine of the great Silver State.

I have had the pleasure to know and work with many of the chamber's leaders and participants from its member businesses who serve the families of my community every day and who serve the nearly 40 million visitors drawn to Las Vegas each year. The Las Vegas Chamber's centennial marks a milestone for an organization that had its humble beginnings a century ago in a dusty railroad town—now known around the globe as the "entertainment capital of the world."

Many of the chamber's early leaders were instrumental in getting legislation passed to create the first highways being built to and from Las Vegas, making the city more accessible to northern Nevada, southern California, Arizona and Utah. Chamber leaders advocated for the building of Hoover Dam. This modern marvel still operates today, creating electricity for millions of homes and businesses, drawing millions of tourists for recreational opportunities at Lake Mead, and creating thousands of jobs for the region.

Chamber leaders were early supporters of the aviation industry in Las Vegas, bringing the first airfield to Las Vegas in the 1920s, establishing McCarran Airport's current location. Later, the chamber worked to secure financing for a modern airport built in 1960. These early leaders recognized the need for air travel to keep Las Vegas accessible, competitive, and relevant; and their support led to McCarran Airport growing to become one of the busiest airports in our Nation.

The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in creating the modern method of promoting Las Vegas through the initiation of the Live Wire Fund. Created in 1944, the Live Wire Fund eventually led to creative marketing campaigns and the initiation of the Las Vegas News Bureau to promote Las Vegas tourism and hospitality to the Nation and to the world. What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas.

The chamber has always been and remains the voice of business in southern Nevada. With over 80 percent of the jobs in the United States created by small businesses, it is my commitment to continue to honor the business people of Nevada by working towards a fairer business environment where "Made in America"—and especially "Made and Sold in Nevada"—drive the philosophy of our business mindset.

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This will create jobs, put people back to work, and continue to provide the kind of opportunities on which our Nation was founded. The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce has embodied these business ideals for a century, and I look forward to being a part of the great things they do in their 101st year and beyond.

In recognition of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce's success, and they are here today in number on Capitol Hill, in helping to make Las Vegas a brand recognized around the world, and for their unwavering commitment to local businesses, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce for their 100 years of service and in wishing this organization and its members another century of extraordinary success.

FREE UP AMERICA'S RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. The President's jobs bill has a surprising number in it for rebuilding our infrastructure. Most Americans would be surprised that that number is only \$27 billion. Divide that between States, and you barely have enough to put some tar and chips on the roads. And yet, as the President is out touting this jobs bill and talking about our crumbling infrastructure, it just isn't going to do the job.

How about this number? \$129 billion to build roads and buildings and water projects? Unfortunately, that number is not being spent in the United States; rather, that \$129 billion is the number that Americans pay in foreign aid to OPEC countries to build their roads, their palaces, their buildings.

Now, unfortunately, that money goes to more than just their infrastructure. It also goes to countries like Iran that fund their nuclear weapons programs threatening Israel and the neighboring countries. It goes to Iran to fund their assassination attempts against Saudi Ambassadors. Iran used it to fund terrorist weapons and IEDs to kill our soldiers. We pay for both sides in the war on terror, and much of that comes through buying foreign energy.

In the meantime, our roads are crumbling, our bridges are rusting and corroding, our locks and dams are decaying, our water and sewer pipe lines are collapsing.

And listen to the cost. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the numbers are staggering: \$935 billion are needed to fix our roads and bridges; \$87 billion for aviation; \$12.5 billion for our locks and dams; \$255 billion to fix our drinking water; \$75 billion for energy infrastructure; \$50 billion for inland waterways; \$50 billion for levees; \$265 billion for transit. Where is the money going to come from?

What is being proposed are long-term and permanent taxes, about 30 years worth of more debt and borrowed money from China for a small \$27 billion to do this. It's not going to do the job, and raising taxes and creating warfare between classes is not going to do it.

Here's what can do it. We have, off of our coast, about 85 to 115 billion barrels of oil, trillion cubic feet of natural gas, trillions. We have massive amounts of money off our coast. Unfortunately, the administration says no, we can't use our money. We have to continue to borrow from China, increase debt or raise taxes. Those approaches to rebuilding America will not do.

What we need to do is free up American resources, use our resources, use our funding to rebuild America. And think what comes out of this. From the royalties, the leases, and from the income taxes that come from hiring, yes, millions of people to involve with civil engineers and operating engineers, laborers, architects, steamfitters, welders, people who work on the rigs, you